

# KREMLIN KNIGHT

A TRAGEDY NOVELLA

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# CONTENTS

<b>KREMLIN KNIGHT</b> .....	1
<i>CHAPTER 1</i> .....	5
<i>CHAPTER 2</i> .....	12
<i>CHAPTER 3</i> .....	19
<i>CHAPTER 4</i> .....	26
<i>CHAPTER 5</i> .....	36
<i>CHAPTER 6</i> .....	45
<i>CHAPTER 7</i> .....	52
<i>CHAPTER 8</i> .....	60
<i>CHAPTER 9</i> .....	67
<i>CHAPTER 10</i> .....	74
<b>ABOUT THE AUTHOR</b> .....	82
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	84



# CHAPTER 1

In kremlin palace

ONE OF THE QUIET NIGHTS in the Kremlin Palace, Tsar Nikolai and his preserved wife celebrate the birthday of their only daughter of beauty and elegance, who was the focus of attention and admiration of all attendees. Suddenly, the Tsar shouted,

"Donatelli summoned the rest of the guests to the party," and Donatelli says,

"Your command, sir."

Donatelli, who was entrusted with commanding the guards

and protecting the fortress, was known to be a loyal, noble fighter with courage and prowess, as he did not be negligent to perform the tasks entrusted to him by Tsar Nikolai, who was known for his extreme cruelty, ruthlessness, and extreme rigidity.

Donatelli was descended from a Russian father and an Italian mother who had emigrated to the Russian empire during the Roman wars, but he had married a Russian girl, and they had a single child, Giovanni, whose mother died when he was seven years old, so he was raised in the confines of his father, who was known for his great love for him.

Donatelli was close to Tsar Nikolai and the Tsarist family and was loved by family members as he was constantly visiting it in response to their needs and asking for help if necessary.

On an autumn day, Tsar Nikolai went on a military mission to Saint Petersburg to repel foreign attacks against the country that was represented by the French empire, which was seeking to expand its influence in the east, setting the Russian empire in its sights and this prompted

it to stir up sedition inside the country and incite the Russian people against Tsarist rule who were suffering from the oppression of the feudal lords and clergy loyal to Tsar Nikolai,

As well as the enslavement of the velvet layer of the aristocrats to landowners from the miserable peasants, the majority of whom were Orthodox Slavs.

During that mission, Tsar Nikolai ordered that the fortress be guarded after he returned from St. Petersburg and entrusted Donatelli with the task and placed him at the head of the guard.

He was entrusted to protect the family and to take great care of it, for Tsar had a lonely girl called Mayoshka and he had a son called Alexander, who died at the age of six after a severe struggle with tuberculosis, which led him to his death at an early age, leaving him only his only daughter, Mayoshka.

Mayoshka was an intelligent, discerning girl with charming beauty, as she loved good and peace, rejecting violence and the policies of absolute Tsarist rule.

Where she believed that absolute rule should not

deprive people of their legitimate rights and that the enslavement of the aristocratic class to landowners is not entirely satisfactory.

Mayoshka was well aware of the oppression of the Russian people by Tsarist rule without her father's knowledge of it, as she was afraid to reveal him because he loved her so much. After all, she was his only daughter and the sole heir of the Tsarist family of the Romanov dynasty.

The Tsar was afraid of the enemies lying in wait for him who was trying to take the throne from him and seize power, and she is a single girl without having a successor after him.

The night Tsar went to Saint Petersburg, his wife asked Donatelli to tighten the guard of the fortress, as is the custom in every absence of the tsar outside Moscow to protect her daughter, Princess Mayoshka, so that nothing would happen to her. She said to him,

"I recommend you to protect the fortress well, Donatelli, the fortress is now subject to your protection after Tsar's absence" Mayoshka replied with dissatisfaction,

## KREMLIN KNIGHT

"you always fear for me, mom, why all this fear I am no longer young?" The mother said,

"I know this, my love, but our enemies are many and the situation of the country is never reassuring." She turned to Donatelli and said to him,

"Do what I have commanded you, Donatelli."

Donatelli replied with confidence,

"My lady, rest assured, let you and your beautiful princess rest in peace. I will not allow anyone to pass the royal gate even if that cost me my life." She said to him,

"This is what we have taken us from you, Donatelli"

and he replied to her with a smile,

"Thank you for your confidence, madam" then he went out to the courtyard of the fortress. Mayoshka was concerned about her mother's conversation with Donatelli, so she asked her

"Why did my father go to Saint Petersburg, mom? Is there something dangerous ?" She said to her,

"I do not know, Mayoshka, but he told me that things will be fine and he told me that he will bring you a beautiful dress from St. Petersburg in honor of Prince Edward to his

wedding."

"Well, mom, good night," said Mayoshka.

Mayoshka was betrothed by the English King to his son Prince Edward when he saw her and admired her at the Christmas party, but she refused because he was from the bourgeois class and because she sympathized with the low class of the Russian people who were feeling their pain, as she did not announce this to her father and claimed that she will not marry until the country stabilizes from the existing turmoil,

Tsar Nikolai did not object to this then, although he was cruel, he was kind and tolerant with his daughter Mayoshka.

In fulfillment of the request of the Tsarina Donatelli instructed his guards to fortify and surround the fortress and not to allow anyone to penetrate the fortress even those close to Tsar Nikolai.



# CHAPTER 2

The plot and assassination of tsarist family

Tsar Nikolai had a close entourage of clergy and nobles from the aristocratic class and among the clergy was a person close to the Tsar named Grigori Raspoutine, who is considered one of the most important clergies belonging to the Orthodox Church, as he was very close to the ruling family of the Romanov dynasty.

Raspoutine was unfaithful to Tsar and the Tsarist family, as he pretended his loyalty and love for Tsar, and this made him close to the ruling family, but in reality, he

wanted to get rid of Tsar Nikolai and his only son, Princess Mayoshka, to wrest rule and sit on the throne of the Tsarist Empire, so he was planning to assassinate Tsar and get rid of his only son.

Raspoutine had some of the men from the private guard who worked under the command of the Tsar, but in reality, they were spies working for him as they provided him with information about the secrets of the ruling family in secret and all that was going on inside the fortress.

Meanwhile, one of the Raspoutine men learned that Tsar Nikolai had gone on a military mission to St. Petersburg and that he had put Donatelli at the head of the guard to protect the family in his absence and entrusted him to protect the fortress and fortify it valiantly.

When he learned of all that had happened, he proceeded to Raspoutine to tell him everything that happened that night, then he found that it was the appropriate opportunity to assassinate Mayoshka, the only heir of Tsar Nikolai, and to get rid of him also in case he returned from St. Petersburg.

Thus, Raspoutine ordered one of his spies from the

special guard under Donatelli to assassinate Mayoshka and her mother in the fortress, so one of the guards entered the fortress courtyard under the pretext of the arrival of a telegram by Tsar Nikolai to his wife declaring that he would stay in St. Petersburg for seven consecutive days, but in fact, it was in the Raspoutine line and signed by him.

When Donatelli read the telegram, he found the signature of Tsar Nikolai without royal stamp, then he had doubts about it, but he was allowed to enter in implementation of the orders.

Thus, the guard secretly infiltrated the Tsar room to assassinate his wife, so he managed to kill her and went out to Mayoshka's room to do the same thing, but fortunately, he stabbed Mayoshka and did not die then, as the guard escaped as a result of her screaming in pain.

Donatelli and his bodyguards heard the screaming of Mayoshka emanating from her room, so he rushed to her to find out what prompted her to scream, unlike her habit, and found her arm was bleeding.

Donatelli was shocked to see this scene, then he immediately healed her wound and asked her with a heart

burning as if she was his daughter,

"Who did this to you, Princess?" Mayoshka answered him with a deep cry,

"I don't know, it was so dark." Then he went to her mother's room to make sure she was safe and not exposed to any harm.

As soon as he entered the room, he was astonished that she had been killed, so he declared a state of alert and summoned the best of the brave knights whom he trusted, as he was aware that the killer was one of the guards working under his command,

So, he wanted to preserve the life of Princess Mayoshka until the return of Tsar Nikolai to investigate the envoy who had been sent by him while he was in Saint Petersburg.

Mayoshka entered her mother's room with her injured arm and found her mother freaking out on the ground, then she went mad, as the guards prevented her from entering for the cruelty of the scene, but she entered against their will and screamed with severe burning,

"Why did you leave me, mom? Respond to me please,

respond to Mayoshka !" she kneeled on her chest for several minutes and her tears flowed ceaselessly.

Donatelli entered the room again and found Mayoshka crouched on the ground beside her mother as if she had died, then he ordered the guards to take her out of the room and asked them to pay her mother's funeral to bury her in the fortress cemetery.

The next day, Raspoutine ordered some of his spies to get rid of Tsar Nikolai in case he returned from St. Petersburg and to make a plot that would enable them to eliminate him and get rid of him without his guards knowing that, then he sent his spies to St. Petersburg to inform the Tsar of the murder of his wife and only daughter.

So, the events took place as he planned, when they arrived in St. Petersburg, they told him about what happened and he suffered for this catastrophe that caused him and increased his anger and sadness together, then he decided to return to Moscow and ordered the army to stay in his place and not move except by order of him.

Thus the Tsar returned with the guard to the fortress

without knowing that it was a plot that had been arranged for him and that they were in fact followers of Rasputine.

On their way to the fortress, the guards tried to treacherous the Tsar, but they could not, as he overpowered them and killed them all.

Then the Tsar learned that it was a conspiracy that had been arranged for him and that it was a conspiracy aimed at his assassination and disposal, so he ordered the army to return to Moscow immediately and leave one battalion in St. Petersburg to take control.



# CHAPTER 3

## Donatelli's execution

**I**N THE MEANTIME, DONATELLI was not aware of Tsar Nicolai's coming, when Tsar arrived at the fortress, Donatelli was surprised by his arrival based on the telegram that had been sent by him that he would stay in St. Petersburg for seven consecutive days.

Tsar entered the fortress and rested Mayoshka in his arms, crying, as he did not believe that his daughter Mayoshka was still alive, despite her severe injury, he was happy to see her again and put her on his chest to make her

feel the safety that she lost during his absence and said to her,

"No, my daughter, they will pay a heavy price," so she raised her head from his chest and said with tearful eyes

"They killed my mother, dad, and they tried to kill me too" then Tsar said with intense burning and barely holding his tears,

"I know this, my daughter, they told me that, do not cry, mayoshka, the murderer must be punished," so he wiped her tears gently and went out to the guards.

Tsar knew it was a plot that had been arranged for him and his family by Donatelli and realized that it was a conspiracy he had planned in his absence to get rid of him and seize the throne.

As a result, the Tsar instructed his guards to summon commander Donatelli to tell him what had happened,

"Did I not order you, Donatelli, to guard the fortress and preserve the family in my absence, you who managed all this, you killed my wife and tried to betray my only daughter, why Donatelli ! So does the loyal !" The Tsar said.

Donatelli hesitantly answered,  
"by your name, sir, in the great name of Nikolai, that  
I did not kill your wife, nor did I try to betray your only  
daughter, nor did I plan for anything from what happened  
and that I am loyal to you for what I lived, but you should  
know that I carried out your orders according to the  
telegram that was sent by you through the envoy and he  
must have been the killer without a doubt."

The tsar said with resentment,  
"Stop the nonsense, Donatelli, which telegram you are  
talking about! I have not sent any telegram to Moscow, so  
there is no reason to justify, Donatelli, you are to blame."

Tsar did not believe Donatelli's admission that he is  
innocent and that he had not committed that crime, so he  
accused him of treason and ordered his guards to carry out  
the death sentence against him as a result of his conspiracy  
and betrayal of Tsar.

At dawn the following day, Donatelli was executed,  
and a number of the guards who were under his command  
on that miserable night.

Mayoshka knew of the death of commander

Donatelli, but she did not believe what happened that he was executed for betraying her father, as she suspected that he was the one who planned to kill her mother and try to kill her, because he loved the family and loved her so much, she grieved him like her grief for her mother, as his death was as shocking to her as if she had lost her father.

Mayoshka did not dare to disclose to her father everything on her mind about the killing of Donatelli for fear that he would rebuke her, especially since she was not sure of his innocence, which prompted her to retreat from her thoughts.

Within a few days, Giovanni knew that his father had been killed and a death sentence was carried out against him for treason of Tsar Nikolai, then he could not believe what had happened, he was deeply saddened and that increased his anger for Tsar.

He believed that his father was not behind what had happened and that he had been unjustly killed, leaving him with great sorrow and pain at every moment, then Giovanni decided to take revenge on his father from Tsar Nikolai.

Giovanni was twenty-three years old at the departure

of his father and despite his young age, he was a valiant knight with an iron fist and excessive strength, as he tended to resemble his father even in the qualities, as he was known for his nobility, sincerity and the help of the weakest of the shattered peasants under Nikolai's rule.

Meanwhile, Europe, including Tsarist Russia, was witnessing social and economic injustice by the feudal lords to the landowners who were enslaved under the influence of the Tsarist rule.

Among these peasants were powerful fighters who defended the weak from their fellow citizens.

Giovanni was among the fighters who defend these peasants secretly without his father's knowledge of this, fearing that he would be subjected to any harm by the Tsar and his men, he was one of the strongest knights in the village of Ivanovka and the other villages surrounding the fortress where they called him the invincible Kremlin knight for his bravery and intense power.

On one quiet night, Giovanni woke up from his agonizing nightmare, and his father's voices did not depart from his imagination, as the departure of his father left

deep sadness in himself and dug in his heart pain in every moment and his eyes shining with tears, as he echoed with himself

"There is no hope for your return, my father, and for the departure of your murderer with a ray of hope."

Giovanni was aware of the difficulty of the task facing him, as trying to infiltrate the fortress and assassinate the Tsar is almost impossible, but he was determined and determined to achieve his goal without causing him despair and fear, and terror that surrounds him.

It had been two years since his father's departure, but he had not lost sight of him for one moment, as he planned revenge and seized the opportunity to take revenge on Tsar Nikolai.



# CHAPTER 4

## Storming the fortress and capturing Mayoshka

M EANWHILE, RUSSIAN CITIES were experiencing political turmoil and a wave of anger and resentment by the underclass who make up the majority of the Russian people, as they were demanding the acquisition and exemption of land as well as the abolition of the privileges that the ruling class obtained from agricultural land, especially wheat, which is the only source for the Russian people.

When Giovanni knew about these protests, he found a

suitable plan to achieve what he was aiming for, and then he proceeded to St. Petersburg and ordered each of his knights to go to the major Russian provinces, the most important of which were Kaliningrad, Kyiv, Odesa, Riga, and others, to urge its people to stir up and demand restitution of their land stolen by the ruling class,

As he was planning to engage the tsarist army and remove them by suppressing these protests, especially and that these cities are far from Moscow and this is what he was planning.

Thus chaos reigned throughout the Russian Empire, and Giovanni took advantage of the tsarist army's preoccupation with suppressing these massive protests throughout the empire, then he found that it was the appropriate opportunity for revenge, as he was planning to invade the fortress and get rid of the Tsar.

So, the events took place as planned, as he told his companions of staunch knights that he would storm the fortress the next morning to take revenge on the Tsar, so the knights agreed to complete this mission and help him achieve his goal, in addition to that they summoned the

men who support them from the neighboring villages in complete secrecy without knowing Tsars' men do this.

At the dawn of the sun the next morning, these knights set out to storm the fortress and their number was not more than forty horsemen, led by Giovanni.

Giovanni was not able to penetrate the fortress due to the intensity of the guard and the impressive number of knights surrounding the fortress, in addition to the archers in the fortress towers, who could not be easily avoided in broad daylight, so he decided to hide among the trees until darkness fell and then began to attack the fortress.

In the darkness of the night, Giovanni and his knights set off for the fortress, where they managed to enter and penetrate inside the fortress and they killed many guards who confronted them strongly, and despite the strong resistance of the Tsar guards, Giovanni managed to penetrate inside the fortress and killed all the guards of the Tsarist family.

Unfortunately, Tsar Nikolai was not in the fortress that morning, as he was on a secret mission in Kazan, one of the largest cities in the Russian Empire.

While confronting the fortress guards, Giovanni learned that Mayoshka was the only girl of Tsar Nikolai, who had striven to defend her, and as a result, he captured her and took her hostage to provoke Tsar's ire.

Thus, Giovanni returned to his village Ivanovka and Mayoshka with him as a captive and placed her in the basement of a room isolated from the house for fear of Tsar's men.

When Nikolai returned to the fortress, the commander of the guard told him in great disappointment that the fortress had been stormed in his absence and that his daughter Mayoshka had been kidnapped by one of the knights who attacked the fortress during these protests, so he got angry and his eyes tearfully mourning the loss of his only daughter, the tsar rebuked Vasily, the guard commander, who was assigned to protect the fortress in his absence, as he said to him in a strong tone,

"How did they beat you, you fool, and you were the strongest knights?"

Vasily replied, saying, "They attacked us suddenly and it was very dark, sir. We could not summon all the

knights to Moscow, as they were on a special mission to quell the massive protests in the major provinces of the country," so the tsar said angrily,

"Damn you, leave immediately," then he ordered his men of the strongest knights to search for Mayoshka throughout the Russian Empire.

Tsar knew that the army's horn to these protests and the attempt to storm the fortress was not a mere coincidence, as he realized that these horsemen took advantage of the army's preoccupation with suppressing these protests to break into the fortress and get rid of him and his only daughter, but he did not know who these horsemen were and who was on their head.

Thus, the knights carried out what the Tsar had requested, they searched for Mayoshka throughout the country, they took more than twenty days in searching, as they did not leave a spot on Russian lands without searching it, but to no avail.

They returned to the fortress in disappointment, with pale faces as if it had been twenty years ago when they told him that they did not find her, he became mad, as he

became as if he is tied, not knowing what to do, as if he had been kidnapped with her.

Tsar was not hoping that she was still alive, as he realized that they had disposed of her and buried her in one of the lands.

Meanwhile, Mayoshka was trembling for fear of what had happened to her, as she was sure that her fate would be the same as that of her mother, but in reality, Giovanni was not planning to kill her, but his goal was Tsar Nikolai.

One night, Giovanni entered the Mayoshka room to reassure her that she had no harm, and found her arm bleeding as a result of the kidnapping, and then he pitied her and realized that she had nothing to do with the killing of his father, nor was her guilt except being the daughter of Tsar, that's why he treated her affected arm and brought the food she needed to survive.

Mayoshka did not believe Giovanni's reaction to her, as she was said,

"If this rider intends to kill me, then why does he treat my injured arms and give me food to survive ?"

At that point, Mayoshka realized that he was not

planning to kill her, but she was sure that he had another purpose and this increased her anxiety and fear together.

Thus, Giovanni came to her every day to meet her needs and check on her injured arm.

When she saw that noble knight who sympathized with her, Mayoshka fell in love with him without knowing that she loved him, as she was tearing her wound whenever it healed longing to see him every day to heal her arm.

She became alone in this dreadful basement, and only Giovanni was sociable to her, as she loved him madly as if he was the noble knight who used to read about him in the stories and which she always dreamed of, forgetting her grievous wound and what he did to her when he kidnapped her.

A few days passed, Mayoshka, Giovanni's captive, waiting for hope, as she was waiting for the right opportunity to reveal for him the love that took her to another world.

On one night, one of the horsemen knocked on the door of Giovanni chanting with his loudest voice,

"Leader Giovanni," so he answered, "Who," said the

rider, "One of your companions."

Giovanni opened the door with great caution and his sword would not leave his waist, then he learned that he was one of his horsemen, as he told him that one of the villages was being wronged by Tsar's men in search of Mayoshka by order of Tsar Nikolai,

So, he was worried about what had happened, fearing they would go to his village to search for her, but this did not prevent Giovanni from carrying out his mission, as they set out together to inform all the knights about this matter to remove the injustice from that village.

In the meantime Mayoshka was eavesdropping behind the door, listening to their conversation, so she felt joy and sorrow together,

as she realized that Giovanni was one of the horsemen who defended the weak and this increased her love for him, but at the same time, she was sad that she had lost her father, who represents her only hope in this life after her mother's death, and because she was unable to divulge Giovanni's love for him as his captive.

meanwhile, Giovanni and a few horsemen arrived at

that village, where they were able to overthrow all of the Tsar men without leaving a trail that revealed their identity, after completing the mission, Giovanni returned on his horse to the village in the middle of the night where the rustle of trees and the metal area of his horse can be heard, suddenly a voice comes clearly with the soft wind "Giovanni" "Giovanni."

Giovanni knew that the sound was emanating from the Mayoshka room, so he hurried to her quickly and opened the door of the room slowly, and said to her,

"What is wrong with you, girl? Why are you shouting about my name and how did you know it ?"

She bluntly answered him, "I was listening to your talk yesterday, you and that Knight."

Giovanni said to her, "And you knew that I was defending the peasants against the Tsar's men"

Mayoshka replied, "Yes, but what do you want from me ?"

Giovanni answered with a smile, "nothing but you will be my only way to get to Tsar Nikolai" and then get out.



# CHAPTER 5

## Tsar's assassination

**O**N THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FORT, Tsar finds that message in the room of his deceased wife, so he was dazzled that it was not written in his handwriting to know that it is the trick that the murderer used to infiltrate into the fortress in his absence to get rid of his wife and his only daughter, as he repeated with a loud shout,

"Oh, for this damned trick, who did this to my family, you bastards !", and he kept silent for a few seconds.

The tsar realized that Donatelli was right about that

letter he had spoken about, then he realized that the traitor was one of those close to the family, knowing that he had gone to Saint Petersburg and took advantage of his absence there,

So, he knew that there was no guilt for Donatelli in that conspiracy, as he had not tolerated his mission assigned to him, and that he had carried out the orders based on the fabricated message that was sent by him, so he regretted his act deeply regretting that he had accelerated about the death sentence that he carried out against Donatelli and some guards who were under his command on that miserable night.

Meanwhile, Giovanni was pondering how to get to Tsar Nikolai to carry out his will then a bright idea came to his mind, namely, to lure the Tsar through Mayoshka, where he disguised himself as a peasant, and rode his horse to the fortress, feeling intimidated and terrified.

Giovanni reached the fortress with his message, which carries many things, written with a cautious hand, filled with wisdom and respect together, and delivered it to the porter, where he said to him with a rude tone,

"What is this message and who are you, man ?"

Giovanni answered him kindly and with a broad smile

"I am a villager from one of the neighboring villages, and I carry a message with me to Tsar Nikolai that concerns him a lot."

The janitor told him unfairly "give it to me and go straight away" and he said to him, "Okay." He rode his horse and returned to the village.

Giovanni could only have this means of getting to Tsar Nikolai and achieve his goal of getting rid of him, When Tsar read that letter, he was surprised by its content, as he considered it a threat and a challenge to him declaring,

"to the great Tsar Nikolai the ruler of the Romanov dynasty, I know that you have lost your only daughter despite your men searching for her, but she is still alive and in peace and security, so If you want to get her, you have to come by yourself tomorrow to the Borovetsky pine forests, otherwise I will kill her in front of your eyes .....

Giovanni Donatelli."

Tsar closed the letter and his eyes were filled with

tears, as he decided to implement what Giovanni had requested to preserve the life of Mayoshka.

The next day, Tsar Nikolai ordered the commander of the guard, Vasily, that he went on a private mission and entrusted him with protecting the fortress in his absence, until he returned from that mission,

and at the same time, Giovanni prepared himself for that dangerous mission, claiming that it might be the last in his life, as he had no choice in front of him, either life or death, as he was aware that the Tsar might leave his promise and equip an imposing army, ignoring that message and sacrificing his only daughter.

The next morning, Giovanni set out to the Mayoshka room, bringing to her whatever she needed in his absence, where he told her with a sad tone

"I brought you your provision, Mayoshka, it will suffice you for several weeks, I have gone on a great mission, and I may never return, but I promise you that I will release you immediately if I return safely" so she replied him, saying,

"To the fortress to get rid of my father, isn't it?",

Giovanni did not say a word, so he closed his eyes for a few seconds, then he turned around and closed the door leisurely and left.

Mayoshka was suspicious that he was going to the fortress to get rid of her father, because this what was on her mind, as he showed signs of fear and dread, and the features of his face were hardly explained, so she was disappointed and fearful of what might happen later, as she fell between Giovanni's hammer and the anvil of her father, as she did not want to lose and sacrifice any of them both represent the love that fills her heart, but she knew that the results would be tragic.

Early in the morning, Giovanni set out to the Borovetsky coniferous forest, riding his horse and his heart trembling with fear and his impulses gradually accelerating as he approached more and more hopefully to achieve his goal at the end.

On the other side of the fortress, the Tsar leaves on his horse, heading to the Borovetsky Forest, hoping to meet his only daughter, leaving his glory and wealth behind him to see her again.

Thus, the Tsar reaches the Borovetsky coniferous forest, accompanied only by his horse, where the rustling of trees and the soft birds singing fill the place, then shouting, "Mayoshka, where are you my daughter, mayoshka?"

Giovanni hears the sound of him carried by the air breezes to his ears and goes towards him with great caution to know if he is alone, Suddenly, Giovanni comes out from behind the bushes and welcomes him sarcastically,

"Welcome, Tsar Nikolai," to reply him and his eyes full of anger,

"Where is my daughter Mayoshka ?"

So Giovanni says, "Do not worry about her, but rather worry about yourself," then Tsar said,

"Whoever you are, Knight, and what you want from my daughter," said Giovanni with full confidence,

"I am Giovanni Donatelli, whose father was unjustly killed by your hand and today you will pay the same price."

Tsar was surprised by what Giovanni disclosed, and he did not believe that he was the son of commander Donatelli, where he told him with a sincere tone

"You have to know, Giovanni, that I did not kill your father unjustly. Rather, it was just a conspiracy that one of my followers had planned, and I admit that I have rushed the death sentence against him, as this is all that has happened and now I advise you to tell me about the place of Mayoshka."

Giovanni did not believe in everything that Tsar said, as he said to him with loud shouting, pointing his hand towards him,

"You all say this and justify your deeds with trivia that you have made by yourself, so when you face your destiny, if you want to get your daughter, you must overcome me first, She is a hostage for me in Ivanovka village, and you can go to her if you kill me first."

Tsar had no choice but to fight, despite his admission of what had happened and Giovanni's disbelief for him, as he did not realize that he would fall into this difficult choice, as he hoped that he would meet his daughter Mayoshka and at the same time he did not want to kill Giovanni.

Thus, the fighting took place between them for several

minutes without dying, and suddenly Tsar Nikolai was hit by a poisoned arrow on his back, to make him fall without movement,

So, Giovanni was shocked and stood astonished by the severity of the unbelievable position that has happened, then he rides his horse and chases that man and follows him quickly to know who he is, so he can arrest and catch him, and under severe beatings, he confesses that he is one of the men of Gregori Raspoutine who work as guards with Tsar Nikolai.

Giovanni realized that the spy knew that Tsar had gone on a special mission alone, so he took advantage of that mission and tracked him to the forest of Borovetsky to get rid of him without the guards knowing that,

and as a result, he killed him and regretted what he had done by luring him to the Tsar and not believing him that it was a conspiracy that had been orchestrated by Raspoutine that caused the death of both his father and Tsar together, so he decided to avenge him with great revenge in response to his damned plot.



# CHAPTER 6

Vasily and the administration of the fortress

AFTER THINKING ABOUT THE INCIDENT for a long time, Giovanni proceeds to the fortress riding his horse and disguised as a peasant, as usual, to inform the commander of the guards of the death of Tsar Nikolai by one of the traitors without disclosing Raspoutine and his conspiracy that he had planned,

As he was aware that many of Raspoutine men were still working under the command of the guard's commander so that they would not tell him what had

happened and then he could escape outside the country.

Giovanni was not only a valiant knight, but he was of dexterous intelligence and distant thinking, as he was a skilled planner with knowledge and an eloquent mind, especially in matters of combat.

Immediately upon his arrival at the fortress, Giovanni introduces his name to the commander of the guard and tells him what happened and that he had seen the tsar murdered in the Borovetsky forests, so the commander is astonished by the news of the death of Tsar Nikolai and orders the guards to go to the Borovetsky coniferous forest where the Tsar lies ascertaining his death, as Giovanni claimed.

Vasily detained Giovanni in the fortress to verify his claims that he had seen him by chance and had nothing to do with that incident, Giovanni said to him wondering,

"Why are you detaining me, commander? If you doubted that I was the one who killed the tsar, I would not have come to you and told you myself, did I ?, I believe that the killer is a traitor among you, not from outside the country."

Giovanni was clever in his conversation with Vasily, as he made him feel as if he was one of his knights and not just a village peasant, so Vasily considered his words somewhat convincing and released him saying to him,

"Go immediately and do not interfere with what does not concern you, this is not your business, farmer, did you understand ?"

Giovanni replied, in a happy tone doesn't believe that he had been released, "Well commander, goodbye," so he got on his horse and returned to the village.

Thus, the guards went to the Borovetsky forest and found him dead over the red grasses that are covered in his blood, then they carry his body to the fortress with disappointment and disbelief at what happened to their leader, and upon their arrival, Vasily is shocked by his death, so he declared a general horn in all parts of the empire and not allowing anyone to leave the country to investigate the death of Tsar Nikolai,

Then the guards carried his body to the cemetery of the fortress and bury him in the cemetery of the great for the tsars.

Meanwhile, Giovanni realizes that Mayoshka will be the next target for Raspoutine to eliminate the Tsarist family and wrest the government, since she will be the ruler of the country after her father's death, being the only heir, and this was what he feared, but he is reassured of her, as she is a captive in the village and out of sight.

As a result, Giovanni and several horsemen are searching for him throughout the country to take revenge on him and eliminate him.

Thus events happen successively and everyone in the palace awaits the new ruler of the country, as the affairs of the fortress and the country are managed by the commander of the Guard, Vasily who was commissioned by Tsar Nikolai before his death.

Vasily instructs to investigate the murder of the Tsar who was killed in mysterious circumstances and orders the army to declare a general horn and close all the borders of the Russian Empire and not allow anyone to cross the borders of the country even those close to the ruling family, as he believed that the killer had used invisible hands to achieve his goals and that he was undoubtedly one of the

confidants for the Tsarist family.

Meanwhile, one of Raspoutine's men goes out of the fortress in secret to inform him of what happened, and upon his arrival in the church he tells him that the Tsar was killed according to his orders, but he is surprised by the disappearance of his spy too and this is what worried Raspoutine, as he turned to him with a frightening look and his eyes filled with terror,

"Did the guards know that your comrade's disappearance?"

The guard replied, and his heartbeat almost heard "No, sir, we did not find a trace of him" then he said to him "Who is charged with protecting the fortress now?"

The guard told him, "commander Vasily, sir, where he instituted strict measures and announced the general horn of the army after the killing of Tsar Nikolai and did not allow anyone to leave the empire, even those close to the family." Then he replied in an angry tone, "Damn you, go immediately," and the guard returned to the fortress.

Raspoutine did not feel reassured by the disappearance of his spy, as he realized that he was

inevitably killed and that his plan had failed, so he decided to flee to his village in Siberia, in the north of the country, to hide from view, for fear of the Tsar's men.



# CHAPTER 7

The search for Giovanni and Raspoutine's death

**T**HUS THE DAYS PASS BY and the death of Tsar is still unknown, despite the careful search of the Tsar's men for any evidence that indicates the perpetrator but to no avail, then commander Vasily suspects that Giovanni was the one who plotted the murder of the Tsar and that seeing him killed in the Borovetsky forests is not by chance, so he orders some fortress knights to search for him and bring him to the fortress.

Meanwhile, Giovanni proceeds to Saint Petersburg to

inquire about the identity of Raspoutine and the place he is supposed to be. When he arrived there, he asks a respected nobleman about him, saying, "Do you know Gregori Raspoutine, O esteemed Master ?"

Then the Master replied, "Yes, but whoever you are, Knight ?" Giovanni answered intelligently

"I am a cavalry and I bring a summons to him from Tsar Nikolai", so the master replied with amazement

"How do you not know Raspoutine that he is one of the most important clerics in our country and a close confidant of Tsar Nikolai, he is a great man."

Giovanni was surprised and replied him "indeed he is a great man, where can I find him, Mr ?"

The Honorable Master said to him "in St. Peter's Church, but his village is in the north of the country, and I do not know what its name is, excuse me, gallant Knight", so he says to him, "I thank you for your candor, gentleman" and left.

Thus Giovanni rides his horse and proceeds to the church very quickly to achieve his intention to take revenge on him, but he is surprised that he is not in the church, as

one of the priests tells him that he went abroad at the request of the French emperor to baptize his newborn son, so he addresses himself, saying

"How cunning that man is ! He tries to keep suspicions out of him even from his whereabouts, and he knows very well that all the country is besieged after the Tsar's death, he must have gone to the village" and shouted, "well, it's okay, Raspoutine, I will chase you to the last point in the country."

Giovanni realized that Raspoutine knew what happened after the killing of his spy, so he decided to head north of the country to search for him, hoping that he would find him at the end.

In the meantime, the fortress knights continue to search for Giovanni to bring him to the commander Vasily, as they toured the largest cities and remote villages in all parts of the Russian Empire, but to no avail, and after a long effort in searching, they knew that he was staying in the village of Ivanovka, unaware that Princess Mayoshka was captured in his cellar and unfortunately they did not find her,

So they searched for him there, but it was too late, as Giovanni and a number of his knights nearly reached Siberia, north of the Tsarist Empire after a three-week journey aboard their horses.

Giovanni and his knights stayed in the village of Sakova for several days, as the weather was very cold, Russia's winter was never merciful, as the winter was as heavy for him as the death of his father,

So everything hindered his career, even the beautiful nature came against him, but despite all these difficulties, Giovanni was extremely optimistic and the smile did not leave his life and did not know the meaning of despair, as he told his companions that he would go north at the first dawn of the sun, forgetting every moment of pain which he felt in his career.

After more than a week of their stay in the village, the sun rises at last to light the snow dunes embroidered ground with its beams like bright gold,

then Giovanni and his knights begin to head north, for they toured all the villages on their way and did not leave a village without asking about him, and after a long effort

in research, he knew from one of the villagers that Raspoutine was staying in the village of Pokrovskoe, his hometown, to find him in the end after making a great effort, he and his valiant knights,

As he was saying, "You will realize the taste of the pain that I lived because of you, Raspoutine" and shouted, almost to frighten his horse "Horsemen to the village of Pokrovskoe" and set out as one Knight.

Giovanni finally arrives at Raspoutine's residence and knocks on the door with great force that terrified Raspoutine himself as he shouted, "Who is there ?" So Giovanni said in a soft tone, "Giovanni, O saint."

As soon as he opened the door, Giovanni was horrified, he was very frightful, with a frizzy chin and yellow eyes shining like a sharp sword blade, as he was almost like a raven for the intensity of his blackness that he wore, but this did not prevent him to achieve what he would, as he said

"Are you Gregori Raspoutine ?" So he replied with a tone of suspicion "Yes, what you want."

Giovanni replied, "Nothing but kill you" and pushed

the door with his iron fist to throw him to the ground and said to him, "Damn you, chin owners, what motivated you to manage all this and betray Tsar and his family, is all this for power and wealth ?"

Raspoutine was surprised by what Giovanni revealed and said to himself, "How did he know about this plot, there is no doubt that he fought the spy who disappeared" and referred to him saying, "What are you saying, you fool? I don't know anything about what you're talking about, you must have gone crazy, come out of here."

Giovanni tells him, "Denial will never help you, Raspoutine, everything has become clear, and now your end has come." He pulls his sword and strikes him with one blow in his neck to fall him dead on the ground.

Thus, Raspoutine died, and the sun of goodness began to re-emerge after it was dominated by injustice and darkness, then Giovanni carries his body aboard his horse and heads with his knights towards the great Volga River, the symbol of Tsarist Russia, and as soon as they arrive at the bank of the river, he throws him away as a dead body in order not to have any significant monument.

Thus, a page full of sadness and fear in Giovanni's life involves, although he managed to avenge his father by killing Raspoutine, he is still sad about his loss as a result of that conspiracy, then he heads to the fortress to inform the commander of the guard about everything that happened, unaware that he is pursued by the cavalry.



# CHAPTER 8

Honoring Giovanni as kremlin knight

**G**IOVANNI AND HIS KNIGHTS go on returning to the fortress after a great effort in their journey that took place in the north of the country, so after two weeks of running onboard their mares, Giovanni arrived at the fortress to reveal what he was concealing from the facts, When he reaches the fortress yard, he is arrested by the guards and they lead him to their commander, unaware of what is going on and doesn't know what awaits him.

The guards bring Giovanni to the commander Vasily,

where he tells him sarcastically,

"What brought you, Giovanni, did you come to admit the death of the tsar ?" Giovanni answered him with courage

"Yes, I came to tell you that I am the one who avenged Tsar Nikolai that your men were unable to do."

Vasily was astonished by what Giovanni had disclosed and said to him with astonishment and extreme suspicion, "You took revenge on the Tsar ! But who killed him, Giovanni ?" He said, "Gregori Raspoutine, I killed him and threw him into the Volga River."

Vasily replied in astonishment, "What ! The black monk, but how did you know that he was the killer."

Giovanni answered him in a sincere tone, "He is the one who planned to kill the Tsar and his family, I learned from one of his followers before I got rid of him, he is the guard who killed him in the Borovetsky forest."

Vasily knew that he was right in all that he had disclosed, and his tone of voice did not lie at all, so he replied to him in an angry voice, "Why did you not tell about that at the time?" Giovanni replied to him with words

that emanate from sincerity and courage "If I told you what happened at the time, you would have ordered your men to execute him and take revenge on Tsar alone, but I wanted to kill him myself to avenge Tsar and my father Donatelli together who was murdered as the victim of Raspoutine's conspiracy for treason."

Vasily was surprised that he was the son of commander Donatelli, who was executed on charges of betraying Tsar Nikolai, as he regrets the incident that led to the death of his father, who is considered one of the finest knights of the fortress and the noblest commanders who worked under their command,

As he did not believe that commander Donatelli was the one who masterminded that plot and killed the Tsar's wife, but this did not prevent Tsar Nikolai from reversing his decision regarding the death sentence, as he considered him responsible for killing his wife and injuring his only daughter.

Vasily was admired by Giovanni's courage and what he did despite all the difficulties that he faced and which the strongest knights of the fortress failed to do, as he said

to him with a broad smile "You remind me of your father's courage, Giovanni." Giovanni did not utter a single word, but Vasily's words made him shed tears.

Thus, all in the fortress knew what Giovanni had made, and as a result, Vasily released him and honored him with the knight fortress medal, which any knight had always dreamed of.

Thus Vasily announced the death of Tsar Nikolai throughout the empire and that he had been killed by Giovanni Donatelli instead of Raspoutine and his damned conspiracy, as he wanted to get rid of all his followers before leaving the country when they knew the truth, especially those working under his command in the fortress.

Vasily's plan was very clever, especially since Giovanni had told him that he had killed the spy who worked as guards in the fortress, so he wanted to get rid of them one by one to secure the fortress and eliminate all traitors.

Vasily realized that trying to reach the spies is very difficult, especially since the fortress is full of guards who

are obligated to protect the fortress, who number about five hundred guards.

Vasily thought for a long time and found that he had no solution but to investigate all the guards one by one, and during his investigation with the guards, he found that two of them resided in the village of Pokrovskoe, Raspoutine's hometown, where he was suspicious of them and asked,

"Do you know Grigori Raspoutine ?" The two guards were surprised by Vasily's question, and they looked at each other with signs of fear, and they answered together,

"No, sir, we do not know anything about him."

Vasily realized that they were liars, especially since they are from the same village where Raspoutine lives, and this increased his suspicions about them, then he ordered his guards to take them to the fortress prison and severely torture them to force them to confess.

Vasily's suspicions were correct about them, they confessed under torture and severe beatings that they were spies of Raspoutine whom he trusted as his relatives in the village.

Vasily was not as cruel as Tsar Nikolai, although he

## K R E M L I N   K N I G H T

was firm, he did not sentence them to death, but he stripped them of guarding the fortress and sent them to their village in Pokrovskoe.



# CHAPTER 9

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# CHAPTER 10

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## About the Author

Majid Almola is an Iraqi writer, born in 1996 in the city of Mosul. He holds a bachelor's degree in the English Language, which enabled him to translate his novella into English. The Kremlin Knight is his first novella, which he wrote when he was in the third stage of his university studies, but he could not publish it until three years after its writing, due to the harsh conditions he was facing during that period. In the kremlin knight, Majid reflects the tragedy of man in various places and times.





## A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s

Sometimes a word of thanks may not be enough for some of the people who supported us in one day, but I can only offer thanks and praise to those people who supported me, even if the support was moral, but it had a great impact on my literary career.

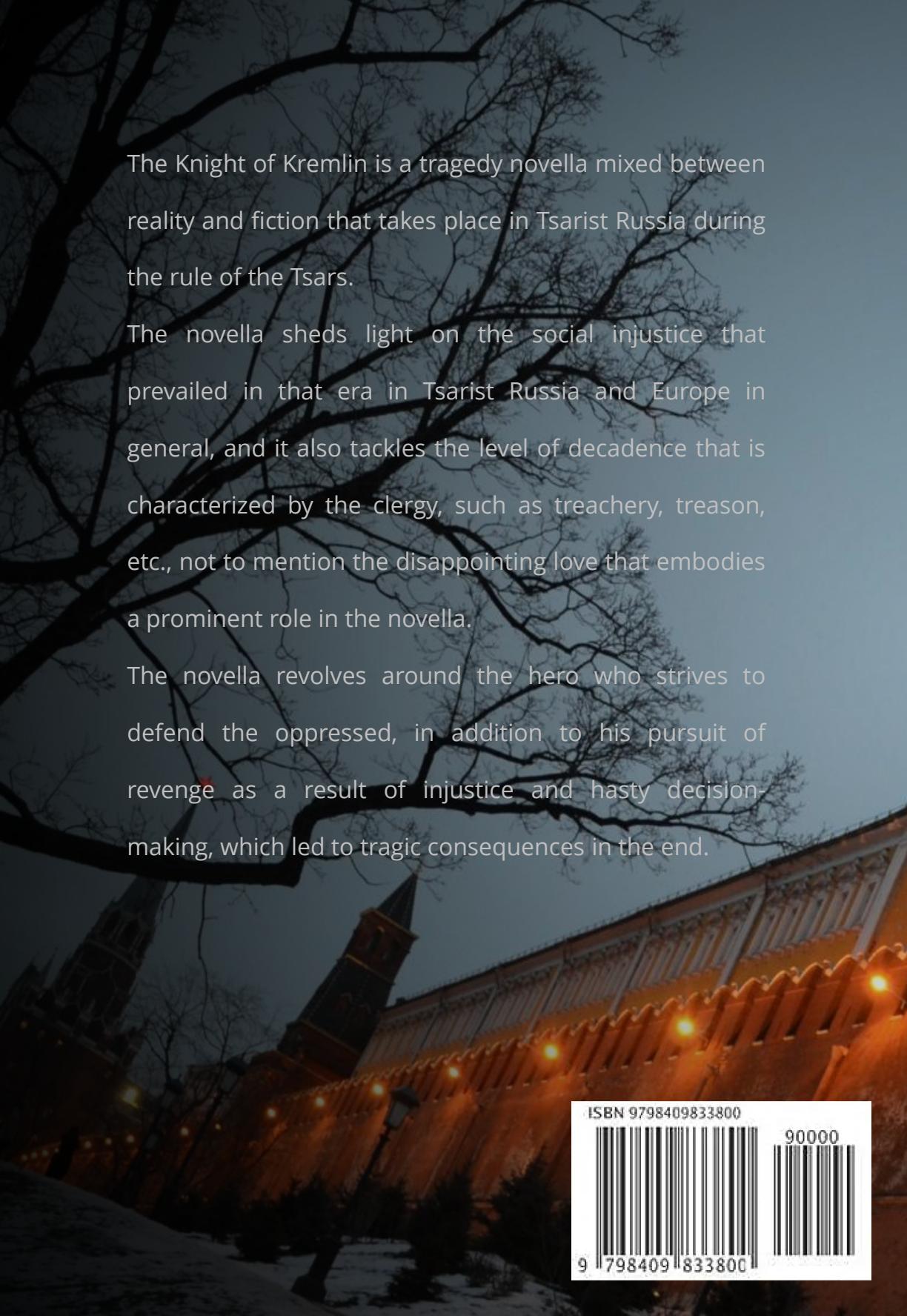
All thanks and appreciation to those who have been supportive of me throughout my writing of the novella, as no one may have helped me adopt the ideas of the novella, or even financially, but their love and support for me morally was the reason for overcoming the obstacles I faced while writing my literary career.

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Greetings to you (Majid Almola)



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The Knight of Kremlin is a tragedy novella mixed between reality and fiction that takes place in Tsarist Russia during the rule of the Tsars.

The novella sheds light on the social injustice that prevailed in that era in Tsarist Russia and Europe in general, and it also tackles the level of decadence that is characterized by the clergy, such as treachery, treason, etc., not to mention the disappointing love that embodies a prominent role in the novella.

The novella revolves around the hero who strives to defend the oppressed, in addition to his pursuit of revenge as a result of injustice and hasty decision-making, which led to tragic consequences in the end.

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